in part areas of 18 States. The less rainfall resulted in less storage in the reservoirs located in these areas. In some of the reservoirs, the water level has gone below minimum draw-down level and, therefor, difficulty was faced in meeting demand of water in such areas.

(b) Water being a State subject, all water resources schemes including the schemes meant for drought proofing of drought prone areas in the country, are planned, formulated, implemented and funded by the respective State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. A storage capacity of 75 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) will be created on completion of projects which are under various stages of construction. Government of India is providing central loan assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 to help the State Governments in their efforts to harness rain water and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by speedy completion of certain selected orgoing schemes, some of which would make drought prone areas drought proof. Proposals for additional projects are also under formulation/consideration for creation of storage capacity of 132 BCM. Besides,National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins/areas.

(c) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal either contemplated or under consideration of the Government to change the policy relating to management of water resources.

Utilisation of Water

1016. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rain-fed and snow-fed water utilized by the animal and plant kingdom and the percentage utilized by organized agriculture;

(b) the extent of success of the water shed management in catching water in the service of society;

(c) Government's plan to stop drainage of rain-water in the heavily rainfall areas of the country; and

(d) the plan of Government to maintain equilibrium of the flow of water between the excess and deficit area interms of rainfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The water utilization from snow-melt and rainfall by animals and plant kingdom have not been assessed separately.

(b) The watershed management is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, under a scheme namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) which is under implementation from 1990-91in 28 States and 2 Union Territories. The Programme has been successful in respect of *inter-alia* conservation development and sustainable Natural Resources.

(c) and (d) In order to augment the rain water drained in heavily rainfall areas, the Government has built storage dams in the country and many contemplated schemes are under various stages of construction. Some schemes are at investigation and planning stage. The Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development, which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. The plan for interlinking of rivers intends to reduce the regional imbalances of water.

Proposal for Flood Control in Bihar

†1017. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Bihar for flood control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, what action Government have taken to control floods at their own level?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.